

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1-24 are pending. Claims 5-10, 13-17 and 22-24 are withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner. Claims 1-4, 11, 12 and 18-21 stand rejected. In this response, applicants have amended claim 1 and cancelled claims 22-23 without prejudice.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Office Action sets forth at page 2 "Claims 1-4, 18 and 20 [are] rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,521,561 to Pali et al." Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection is overcome by the amendments to the claims and for the reasons set forth below.

Applicants' invention as recited in claim 1, as amended, includes features not disclosed or suggested by Pali et al., namely:

... releasable securing means comprising ...:

... a pressing element to be put on the doctor blade ..

... at least one magnetic element configured and arranged to attract said pressing element and said body to one another so as to maintain a supporting portion of the doctor blade trapped between the pressing element and a supporting surface of the body, i) a first face of said supporting portion of the doctor blade in firm contact with said supporting surface of the body and ii) the pressing element in firm contact with a second face of the supporting portion of the doctor blade opposite to said first face in contact with the body. (Emphasis Added)

U.S. Patent No. 3,521,561, to Pali, describes a device for securing doctor blades to a printing roller doctor assembly, comprising a magnetic element (magnets 30) arranged in a body (lower jaw 23) of said doctor assembly to attract a doctor blade (blade 21), which is made of a ferromagnetic material, and a pressing element (upper jaw 22) that is put on the doctor blade to trap it between the pressing element and the body of the doctor assembly. In Pali's device, however, the upper jaw 22 includes a plurality of brass plates or discs 31 acting to prevent the magnetic field emanating from the magnets 30 to penetrate the upper clamping jaw 22 so that only the blade itself will be affected by the magnetic field (column 4, lines 9-20).

According to Pali, the function of magnets 30 is thus just to momentarily hold the blade 21 in place on the lower jaw 23 and prevent it from curling when the upper jaw 22 is removed during the installation of the blade (column 4, lines 43-50). Further, in Pali's device, the upper jaw 22 is securely clamped together with the lower jaw 23 by means of jaw holding screws 35 located at various points along the length of the jaws in order to trap the blade 21 therebetween (column 4, lines 50-54). The need to uninstall and install again a plurality of jaw holding screws every time a blade is replaced is a difficult and time consuming task.

In contrast, in applicants' claimed invention, the doctor blade is held in place on the body of the doctor assembly by the pressing element due to the attracting force of the magnetic element without the need of holding screws or the like. Furthermore, by virtue of the magnet elements, the pressing element ensures firm securing of the doctor blade even in the case in which the doctor blade is made of a non-magnetic or paramagnetic material or not attractable by the magnetic element (see page 2, line 19 through page 3, line 2 of applicant's specification as filed).

The advantage of the claimed invention is to provide releasable securing means to join a doctor blade to the body of the doctor assembly which are of simple construction and fast and easy utilization without any need for tools (see page 2, lines 13-18 of applicant's specification as filed).

Pali does not have this advantage because Pali does not have a releasable securing means comprising a pressing element to be put on the doctor blade, and at least one magnetic element configured and arranged to attract said pressing element and said body to one another so as to maintain a supporting portion of the doctor blade trapped between the pressing element and a supporting surface of the body, i) a first face of said supporting portion of the doctor blade in firm contact with said supporting surface of the body and ii) the pressing element in firm contact with a second face of the supporting portion of the doctor blade opposite to said first face in contact with the body.

Because Pali fails to disclose each and every feature of applicants' claim 1, it is not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 (b) as being anticipated by Pali. Withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claim 1 is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-4, 18 and 20 depend upon claim 1 and, thus, are likewise not subject to rejection for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 1.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Office Action sets forth at page 4 "Claims 11-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pali et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 2,179,625 to Groden." Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection is overcome by the amendments to the claims and for the reasons set forth below.

Groden is relied upon as "[teaching] a magnetic element, 10, contained in a body, M, linked to a mechanism configured and arranged ... to selectively move the magnetic element between a resting position ... and an operating position ..." Groden fails to make up for the deficiencies noted above, however, with respect to Pali et al. Accordingly, because claims 11 and 12 ultimately depend upon allowable claim 1, these claims are not subject to rejection as being unpatentable over Pali et al. in view of Groden.

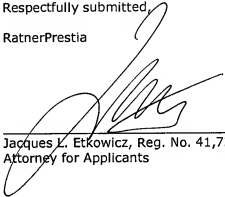
The Office Action sets forth at page 5 "Claims 19 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pali et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,027,513 to Allison, Jr." Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection is overcome by the amendments to the claims and for the reasons set forth below.

Allison, Jr. is relied upon as "[teaching] a device for securing doctor blades ..." Allison, Jr. fails to make up for the deficiencies, however, discussed above with respect to Pali et al. Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that at least because claims 19 and 21 depend upon allowable claim 1 they are likewise not subject to rejection for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 1.

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth above, applicants submit that the above-identified application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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